



SINCE 1902

CONFERENCE OF STATE BANK SUPERVISORS

**March 14, 2014**

**Conference of State Bank Supervisors**

1129 20<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Ninth Floor, Washington, DC, 20036

**Statement on H.R. 2672, the HELP Rural Communities Act of 2014**

**Charles A. Vice**

**Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Financial Institutions**

**Chairman, Conference of State Bank Supervisors**

The Conference of State Bank Supervisors commends the House Financial Services Committee for approving H.R. 2672, the Helping Expand Lending Practices in Rural Communities Act of 2014.

The application process that H.R. 2672 creates for community banks and other stakeholders to seek “rural” designation for a specified area under the CFPB’s mortgage rules establishes needed flexibility for community banks seeking to serve rural communities.

My fellow state regulators and I have identified portfolio lending as a key opportunity for policymakers to ensure community banks’ ability to contribute positively to the economic well-being of their local markets. This includes responsibly underwritten balloon loans and flexibility for escrow account services, important factors for credit in markets across the country.

This important bipartisan measure creates a framework that permits flexibility where borrower and lender interests are aligned. This petition process will help to bring crucial credit products, such as Balloon Qualified Mortgages, to those who need it most.

CSBS has submitted a letter to Committee leadership offering our support of the HELP Rural Communities Act of 2014. The letter to Chairman Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) and Ranking Member Maxine Waters (D-CA) is available [here](#).

# # #

**Media Contacts:**

Catherine Woody, Vice President of Media and Industry Relations, [cwoody@csbs.org](mailto:cwoody@csbs.org) or 202.728.5733

Rockhelle Johnson, Senior Manager of Communications, [rjohnson@csbs.org](mailto:rjohnson@csbs.org) or 202.407.7156

Matthew Longacre, Manager of Communications, [mlongacre@csbs.org](mailto:mlongacre@csbs.org) or 202.803.8091

*The Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS) is the nationwide organization of banking regulators from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. State banking regulators supervise nearly 5,200 state-chartered financial institutions. Further, most state banking*

*departments also regulate a variety of non-bank financial services providers, including mortgage lenders. For more than a century, CSBS has given state supervisors a national forum to coordinate supervision of their regulated entities and to develop regulatory policy. CSBS also provides training to state banking and financial regulators and represents its members before Congress and the federal financial regulatory agencies.*